

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
November 11, 2013
Minutes

Committee members present: Chair Tom Rudolph, Greg Berard, Jim Intrepidi and Bob Martini.
Excused: Bob Mott and Clint Zimbeck.

Others present: Erica Brewster, Tim Brown, Lynn Feldman, Jean Hansen, Michele Sadauskas, Jim Tharman (APHIS) and Kerri Ison.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rudolph at 9:00 a.m. noting the meeting has been properly posted and the facility is handicap accessible.

Rudolph report the Poster and Speaking contest has been scheduled for 2/13/14 and the area contest will be held 2/21/14 in Marathon County.

Approve agenda: Motion by Intrepidi/Martini to approve today's agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve minutes: Motion by Martini/Intrepidi to approve the minutes of the 10/14/13 meeting as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Date(s) of future meetings:

December 9, 2013	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room
January 13, 2014	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room

Consent agenda items: Motion by Martini/Berard to approve the consent agenda as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Wildlife Damage program: Tharman reviewed the 2014 Wildlife Damage program budget provided in Committee packets. He indicated a slight increase from last year. The budget now includes the Venison Donation program. Discussion followed. Motion by Intrepidi/Martini to approve the 2014 Wildlife Damage program budget as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Cooperative Service agreement/Plan of Administration: Tharman provide a copy of the Cooperative Service agreement and Plan of Administration for review. Discussion followed regarding the program. Action on these items will be taken at the December meeting.

Monthly staff report:

- Brewster provided handout regarding the Affordable Care Act and basic eligibility.
- Brewster provided PowerPoint regarding new technology devices she and Brown are showcasing at local libraries (i.e. Ipad mini, Nook, Kindle, Nexus tablets). They were able to procure these devices through a technology grant through the state to train librarians how to use them and then teach others that come to the library with questions. Members of the committee were able to handle each device if desired. She and Brown also created a website with resources and how-to videos for new users. Brown noted this program is being looked at by agents statewide. Lengthy discussion followed regarding access, use and the future of the project.

Oneida County Fair update: Brewster noted there will be a facility advisory group meeting next week to discuss whether Pioneer Park will be the long-term home and what pieces are needed to hold

the event at that site. She noted she is waiting for final budget approval to determine Fair funding for 2014 and the hiring of a coordinator. Discussion followed.

Agency reports:

Lake Districts: Rudolph noted Horsehead Lake District Commission meeting on Thursday.

LWCB: Rudolph noted the next meeting will be held in early December. There is still a vacancy on the Board which will be appointed by the Governor.

WLWCA: Rudolph reported an Executive Committee meeting will be held 11/13/13 in Appleton to look at the strategic plan, conference programming and the performance review of Executive Director.

RC&D: Rudolph reported RC&D will meet this Friday. An Executive Committee meeting was held recently to discuss the replacement of the Executive Director who will retire in February 2014.

WHIP Coordinator position extension: Rudolph noted the request for grants needs approval by Land & Water Conservation Committee. The project proposal was provided in the packets for review prior to the meeting. Motion by Intrepidi/Berard to support the project proposal for the WHIP Coordinator position extension as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Soil map continuing appropriation account: Hansen reported years ago the department offered soil maps for sale with funds put into a continuing appropriation account. Hansen spoke with Sorenson regarding these funds and she suggested that the funds be used. Ideas include updating software on the GPS unit, purchased of laptops or boat/canoe/kayaks. Hansen will bring back a list of needs at the next meeting. Lengthy discussion followed.

County Cost-Share program update/approval: Hansen is working to allocate 2013 funding. She requested that the Committee Chair be authorized to approve the low-cost estimates on upcoming projects in order to meet deadlines. Motion by Intrepidi/Martini giving the Committee Chair permission to approve low-cost estimates. All ayes; motion carried.

Fee Schedule: Hansen requested clarification regarding the fee schedule presented at the October meeting. Discussion was held regarding refundable and non-refundable fees and how the deposits would be distributed once the project is completed.

Office space update: Brewster noted the Buildings and Grounds Committee met and proposed a draft resolution to move the LWC office back to the Courthouse, leaving UWEX at the Airport. She noted there is an interested buyer for the WPS building who would fix/remodel the building with the contingency that UWEX/LWCD rents the space needed. The Buildings and Grounds Committee is meeting today and this issue will be discussed. Committee discussed cost of rent, etc. The Committee was very interested in this possibility and requested a joint CUW/B&G meeting on 11/18/13. Motion by Martini/Intrepidi that the Committee communicate to Buildings & Grounds the request for a joint meeting to investigate what appears to be an attractive option regarding space for UWEX/LWCD. All ayes; motion carried. Discussion was also held regarding the possibility of a business incubator using Airport office space if vacated. Lengthy discussion followed regarding the continuing space issue.

Public comment/communications: Brewster reported the next Minocqua Science on Tap topic (12/4/13) will be the WI Idea and the Dean of CALS will be the speaker.

Brewster provided talking points for Fair budget justification if needed at County Board meeting on 11/12/13.

Items to include on next agenda: Wildlife Damage Cooperative Service agreement and Plan of Administration, County Cost-Share fee schedule, office space update, soil map continuing appropriation account, AIS annual report and NRCS operational agreement.

Adjournment: Motion by Intrepidi/Berard to adjourn at 11:16 a.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Ison, Recording Secretary

Thomas D. Rudolph, Chair

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